

REMARKS

Applicants have amended all the claims in the application. Claim 9 has been cancelled without prejudice and has been replaced by new claim 17. Claims 10-16 have been amended in minor respects and now depend from claim 17.

The subject matter of new claim 17 relates to a wireless microphone system with a microphone transmitter and a microphone receiver, a speech recognition system, and a control unit. The microphone transmitter and the microphone receiver are used to transmit an audio signal as recorded by the microphone transmitter so that this transmitted audio signal can be reproduced. In addition, the recorded and transmitted audio signals are also used for speech recognition. Based on the speech recognition, the microphone system, an external stage system or the transmission behavior of an electro-acoustic system coupled to the microphone system, are controlled. In other words, the recorded audio signals are used for speech recognition as well, for example, for relaying the recorded audio signal into a room.

The Examiner has rejected prior claim 9 and those claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. § 102 over Oh et al (U.S. Patent Publication 2003/0018479 A1). Oh et al describes an electronic appliance having a speech recognition unit. A wireless microphone is used to detect the speech which is analyzed by the speech recognizer. The appliance comprises an external signal input, an audio amplifier and a video amplifier, wherein the external signal is displayed on a screen and reproduced by a speaker. In order to improve the speech recognition during sound recognition, the sound output from the speaker is removed so that only the speech of the user can be recognized. New claim 17, however, provides a direct contrast to the teaching of Oh et al since the subject matter of the new independent claim 17 is directed to a wireless microphone system for recording, transmitting and supplying the recorded audio signal for an audio reproduction. The speech recognition is performed based on the recorded and transmitted audio signals. In other words, the recorded and transmitted audio signals are used for the audio reproduction as well as for the speech recognition.

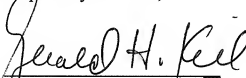
The Examiner has also combined Ludwig (U.S. Patent 6,689,947 B2) with Oh et al to reject the prior claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. However, Ludwig clearly does not relate to a

wireless microphone system which comprises a microphone transmitter, a microphone receiver, a speech recognition system, and a control unit for controlling the function of the microphone system, and external stage system and/or the transmission behavior of an electro-acoustic system connected to the microphone system.

Accordingly, the subject matter of new claim 17 is clearly patentably distinguishable over the above references taken either individually or in combination. In neither prior art reference are the audio signals recorded by the microphone transmitter transmitted wirelessly to the microphone receiver to be relayed as acoustic signals into a room. The prior art references relate to a speech recognition system which is used to identify any speech commands which can be used to control a device connected to the speech control system. None of these references relates to controlling the microphone system itself, a stage system or the transmission behavior of an electro-acoustic system connected to the microphone system.

Clearly, new claim 17 patentably distinguishes over the cited references and, accordingly, claim 17 and those claims dependent thereon should be considered allowable and the application should be passed to issue at the earliest opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald H. Kiel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Gerald H. Kiel, Reg. No. 25,116
Attorney for Applicants

Reed Smith LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
29th Floor
New York, NY 10022-7650
Tel.: (212)521-5400

GHK/jl